

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5398

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 IAEA VIENNA 0480

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IAEA, PARM

SUBJ: IAEA PNE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

REF : (A) STATE 007309; (B) IAEA VIENNA 0399

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING MESSAGE PROVIDES BACKGROUND IN PNE TECHNICAL
PAN AND REQUEST ADVICE ON POSSIBLE ISSUES WHICH MAY ARISE IN
RESPECT OF POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PANEL ON FUTURE PNE
ACTIVITIES OF AGENCY. END SUMMARY

1. AS IN CASE OF "TECHNICAL COMMITTEES" (FORMERLY "PANELS")
GENERALLY, INCLUDING PREVIOUS PNE TECHNICAL PANELS, PRESENT
COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AT END OF MEETING.
PRELIMINARY AGENDA DISTRIBUTED TO PARTICIPANTS AT OPENING OF MEET-
ING INCLUDES FINAL ITEM FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, OF "CONCLUSIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS". MOREOVER, DURING OPENING REMARKS, DDG
CHERNILIN, READING FROM PREPARED TEXT (IN ENGLISH) SAID, "THE
COMMITTEE IS ALSO REQUESTED TO RECOMMEND GUIDELINES TO THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIELD THAT THE AGENCY
SHOULD PURSUE IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

2. MISSION HAS OBTAINED FROM SECRETARIAT, ON PRIVATE BASIS,
SECRETARIAT LIST (DATED JANUARY 10, 1975) HEADED "POSSIBLE
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RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TECHNICAL PANEL ON PNE". LIST CONSISTS

OF FOLLOWING ITEMS, IN SECRETARIAT'S WORDS: QUOTE

- (1) THE NEXT TECHNICAL PANEL SHOULD BE CONVENED IN 1976.
- (2) THE AGENCY SHOULD UP-DATE ITS BIBLIOGRAPHY ON PNE.
- (3) A GLOSSARY ON PNE SHOULD ALSO BE PUBLISHED.
- (4) IF THE DEMAND JUSTIFIES IT, A GENERAL AND INTRODUCTORY COURSE ON PNE TECHNIQUES COULD BE ORGANIZED. THE LECTURES COULD THEN BECOME A PUBLICATION ON AN INTRODUCTION TO THE USE OF PNE.
- (5) A STUDY ON THE BASIC ECONOMICS OF PNE TECHNOLOGY AS COMPARED TO CONVENTIONAL TECHNIQUES COULD ALSO BE UNDERTAKEN.
- (6) STUDIES ON CERTAIN HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS.
- (7) AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO OBTAIN MORE DECLASSIFIED MATERIAL.
- (8) INCORPORATION OF ALL RELEVANT MATERIAL IN INIS. UNQUOTE

3. MISSION UNDERSTANDS FIRST SIX ITEMS ARE ALREADY REFERRED TO IN SECRETARIAT'S PROGRAM PROPOSED INTERNALLY IN CONNECTION PREPARATION 1976 BUDGET SUBMISSION. IN TRADITIONAL FASHION, SECRETARIAT WILL ASK COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO CONSIDER AND GENERALLY ENDORSE SECRETARIAT'S PROGRAM IDEAS, AS FOLLOW-ON TO EARLIER BOARD OF GOVERNORS DECISIONS WHICH TASKED AGENCY TO MOVE AHEAD ON STUDY OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PNES.. MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT MEMBERS OF SECRETARIAT INVOLVED (PRESUMABLY CHERNILIN, OTWAY, FLAKUS AND DELCOIGNE) WILL DISCUSS PRIVATELY WITH INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, DURING COURSE OF MEETING, CERTAIN ITEMS ON FOREGOING LIST. IT IS DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, THAT ENTIRE LIST WILL BE CIRCULATED TO OTHER PARTICIPANTS; RATHER, SPECIFIC PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO PROPOSE OR SUPPORT PARTICULAR ITEMS. WHILE PRECISE METHOD OF DRAWING UP COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE IN HANDS OF CHAIRMAN WILSON (AUSTRALIA), PROCESS TRADITIONALLY IS VERY INFORMAL. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF SECRETARIAT CONCERNED USUALLY BUTTEND MEMBERS OUTSIDE FORMAL SESSIONS AND DISCUSS MATTER. AFTER GIVE AND TAKE OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARIES (FLAKUS, FRG, AND OTWAY, US) WILL PROBABLY DRAFT COMMITTEE'S CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THURSDAY AFTERNOON OR EVENING AND PRESENT DRAFT FOR APPROVAL BY COMMITTEE FRIDAY MORNING. WORDING OF PARTICULAR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL PROBABLY BE DISCUSSED INFORMALLY WITH IMPORTANT INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRIOR TO FORMAL MEETING FRIDAY MORNING. APPROVAL IS NORMALLY BY CONSENSUS, WITHOUT FORMAL VOTE. ANY DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE RESOLVED BY REDRAFTING AT COMMITTEE MEETING, OR BY INFORMAL DRAFTING GROUP

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ABLY DRAFT COMMITTEE'S CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THURSDAY AFTERNOON OR EVENING AND PRESENT DRAFT FOR APPROVAL BY COMMITTEE FRIDAY MORNING. WORDING OF PARTICULAR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL PROBABLY BE DISCUSSED INFORMALLY WITH IMPORTANT INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRIOR TO FORMAL MEETING FRIDAY MORNING. APPROVAL IS NORMALLY BY CONSENSUS, WITHOUT FORMAL VOTE. ANY DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE RESOLVED BY REDRAFTING AT COMMITTEE MEETING, OR BY INFORMAL DRAFTING GROUP

OF MEMBERS CONCERNED, AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION.

4. AS MATTER OF INTEREST, MISSION HAS JUST RECEIVED CIRCULAR NOTE FROM SECRETARIAT INFORMING US THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL HAS ESTABLISHED QTE AS FROM 15 JANUARY 1975 A UNIT IN THE SECRETARIAT TO DEAL WITH THE TECHNOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, SAFETY AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES (PNE). THIS UNIT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTION AND EXCHANGING ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION, FOR TAKING ACTION ON THE REQUESTS FOR SERVICES RELATED TO THE USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND FOR SURVEYING THE ECONOMICS OF THIS AND ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES. UNQTE

5. AS REPORTED IAEA VIENNA 0399, SOVIETS WILL PRESENT RADIATION CRITERIA PAPER TO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE THIS WEEK. WE FEEL SURE THEY WILL PRESS FOR COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND FURTHER AGENCY STUDIES ON POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING CRITERIA FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES. THEY HAVE PRIVATELY SOUGHT OUR SUPPORT FOR COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT FOR THIS RECOMMENDATION. IN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 IAEA VIENNA 0480

VIEW OF PERTINENT UN AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS' RESOLUTIONS WHICH REQUEST IAEA TO CONTINUE ITS STUDIES ON THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ASPECTS OF PNES, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO RESIST A PANEL CONSENSUS LEADING TO A RECOMMENDATION PROPOSING SUCH AN AGENCY STUDY WHICH INCLUDES REFERENCE

TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CRITERIA. USDEL WILL, OF COURSE, FOLLOW ITS INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO DISCUSS SAFETY CRITERIA OR STANDARDS BUT THERE IS NO PLAUSIBLE ARGUMENTATION WHICH CAN BE USED PUBLICLY TO BLOCK THE ANTICIPATED SOVIET PROPOSAL. OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS WOULD LIKELY FIND SOVIET PROPOSAL ATTRACTIVE OR AT LEAST UNEXCEPTIONAL.

6. WE FELT IT BEST TO TRY TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE BY ASSURING THAT NO DEADLINES ARE SET FOR COMPLETION OF AN AGENCY STUDY AND THAT THE LANGUAGE IS AS VAGUE AS POSSIBLE IN TERMS OF WHAT THE AGENCY SHOULD BE ASKED TO STUDY. WE WILL RESIST ANY REFERENCE ON SUCH RECOMMENDATION TO LTBT AND WE NOTE THAT SOVIETS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION SOUGHT NO SUCH REFERENCE.

7. WITH RESPECT TO ITEM FOUR OF THE AGENCY PAPER ON POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS, WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE QUESTION WITH OTWAY (US) WHO VISUALIZES SUCH A COURSE AS A LOGICAL WAY TO PRESENT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PNES IN A LIGHT CONFIDENTIAL

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WHICH WILL INDICATE THE PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS OF FEASIBILITY. THE COURSE MATERIALS LEADING TO PUBLICATION WOULD CARRY THE SAME CLEAR MESSAGE TO POTENTIAL APPLICANTS FOR PNE SERVICES. COURSE COULD, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, BE CONDUCTED UNTIL THE NEXT AGENCY BUDGET YEAR-- CALENDAR 1976. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE WISE TO TAKE A STRONG POSITION AGAINST SUCH A COURSE, BUT RATHER TO ASSURE THAT WE HAVE (WHICH WE WILL) A MAJOR INPUT INTO THE CURRICULUM IF INDEED THE COURSE EVER IS GIVEN. WE WILL PROPOSE THAT COURSE CURRICULUM CONSIDER "ALL PERTINENT ASPECTS" OF PNES, INCLUDING ECONOMICS AS SET FORTH IN ITEM 5.

8. BY AND LARGE, THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WILL SIMPLY BE ASKED TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC ENDORSEMENT TO THE AGENCY PLAN OF ACTION OF PNES WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY DESCRIBED TO DEPARTMENT IN EARLIER MESSAGES. THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT NEW ELEMENT IS THE SOVIET DESIRE TO ASK THE AGENCY TO BEGIN STUDIES ON THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING HEALTH AND SAFETY CRITERIA. UNLESS DEPT HAS SPECIFIC COMMENTS, WE WILL ACT ON THIS POINT AS OUTLINED ABOVE.
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